



New England
Conservatory



2023-2024
Impact
Report

A Note from President Kalyn

Together, we are unleashing music's power. We are advancing humanity through music, expanding the possibilities of what music can be, and ensuring that everyone has access to listening and learning. Your generosity empowers our work.

During the 2023–2024 academic year, your support built the foundation for new initiatives and programs that will enhance the NEC experience and strengthen our leadership position in the world of music. We are proud to have launched our reimagined undergraduate curriculum, redefining the standard for conservatory music education. In Expanded Education, we are building upon existing Preparatory School programs while developing new offerings to serve students of all ages and backgrounds. Our Community Performances and Partnerships (CPP) program celebrated 20 years of impact, and our students, energized by educating the next generation of music lovers, have embraced the launch of the new Teaching

Artistry and Music Education concentration. As always, excellence is at the forefront of all we do. Our students, alumni, and faculty continue to reach new heights worldwide through noteworthy performances, awards, competitions, and academic achievements. They are defying conventions of genre, collaboration, performance, and audience, redefining what it means to be an artist in contemporary society.

Please enjoy reflecting on another remarkable year made possible by your generosity. **The future of music education is powered by you, our dedicated partners who support the work happening every day at NEC.**

With deep gratitude,



Andrea Kalyn, President

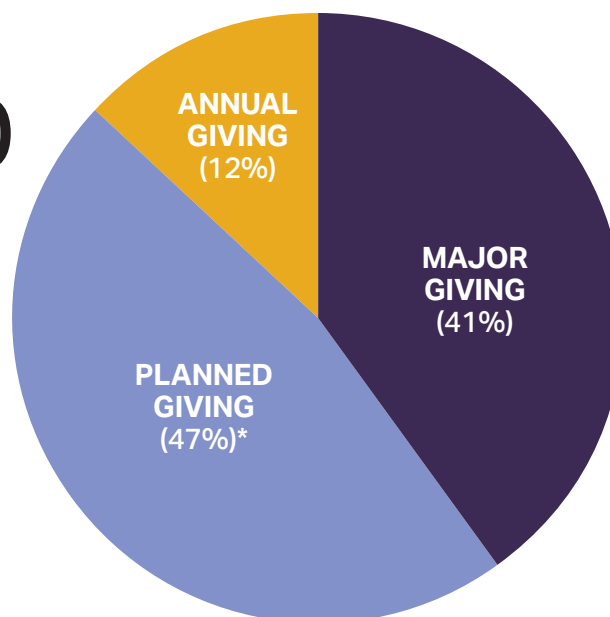
2023–2024 FUNDRAISING RESULTS

\$32,946,230

from **2,002** donors

*Alumni make 42% of planned giving commitments.

Learn more:
plannedgiving.necmusic.edu



Your support powers....

Student Opportunity

We are grateful for your generosity in expanding the realm of possibilities for NEC students through scholarship support, which increases the opportunities for young artists of prodigious talent to attend NEC as they prepare for a life in music.

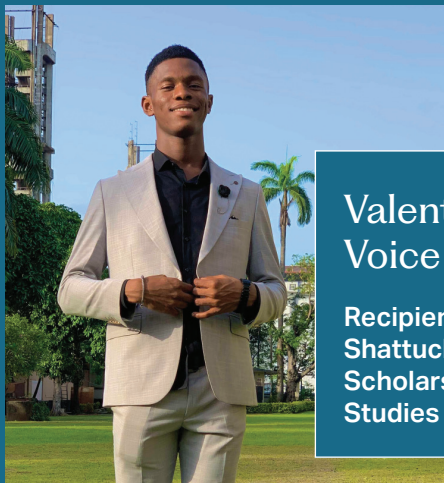
This year, alumna and President's Council member **Melody L. McDonald '70** established the **Professor Jack McDonald Dean's Scholarship Fund** to provide financial aid to talented collaborative piano students. The gift, made in memory of her beloved husband, is a testament to Melody's commitment to advancing music's reach by positioning NEC's students to launch rewarding careers for generations to come. The three students featured here were recipients of donor-funded named award scholarships during the 2023-2024 academic year.



**Kingsley Chen,
NEC Prep, Piano**

**Recipient of the
Anonymous Foundation's
Endowed Support Fund for
NEC Prep Scholarship**

"My dream is to become a pianist and spread the love of music. I have learned many things this year, with piano lessons, theory, chamber music, seminar, and composition. I appreciate this scholarship very much."



**Valentine Umeh '27,
Voice**

**Recipient of the Wendy
Shattuck '75 Presidential
Scholarship Fund for Vocal
Studies Scholarship**

"The most exciting thing about my future at NEC is that I have gotten acquainted with Wagnerian soprano Professor Jane Eaglen, who I am studying with, and it's most delightful to think about how much her pedagogy will impact my singing positively. It is really exciting."



**Lexine Feng '24, '26
MM, Cello**

**Recipient of the Gregor
Piatigorsky Fund
Scholarship**

"I would love to continue developing my musicianship among supportive faculty and peers, and I hope to continue working on and possibly expanding my program of musical conversations across generations, with the help of NEC's Community Performances and Partnerships Program."

Your support powers....

Curricular Innovation



No one thrives in a silo—least of all musicians. Because of your generosity, NEC's **Integrative Curriculum** is reinventing conservatory education by forging fresh intersections among musical genres and disciplines.

“The more curious students are, the more they’ll learn and the better performers they’ll be. And in the end, they will live more interesting lives.”

– Miriam Fried

We have laid the groundwork for initiatives that will expand the parameters of music education. As part of the integrative curriculum, faculty members Miriam Fried (violin) and Andrew Schartmann (music theory) created a new course called Performance and Analysis: Beethoven’s Violin Sonatas, in which students examine how music theory relates to performance and how historical context can inform our interpretations of music. Thanks to this reimagined approach to teaching, students will graduate as holistic musicians with the professional tools and creative confidence to transform their careers and the wider world.

This type of innovation and curricular change would not be possible without you. Life trustee **Joseph L. Bower '18 hon. DM**, a champion for the Conservatory’s curricular development, recently established the **Bower Fund for the Development of Transformative Curriculum** to support faculty innovation. Leaders like Joe understand the faculty’s need for resources that enhance the overall student experience through the integration of project-based learning and technology as a tool for teaching, learning, and creativity.



Your support powers....

Musical Excellence

To make a career in music today, musicians must engage audiences, cultivate a fan base, leverage technology, and seek out interdisciplinary collaborations. Thank you for supporting our students on their unique artistic journeys.

Expanding on the legacy of NEC's prestigious Artist Diploma program, the Institute for Concert Artists (ICA) offers a transformative experience for supremely talented students who are preparing to embark upon major performing careers in music. This two-year, highly selective program provides ICA artists with curated access to preeminent performers and innovative arts leaders, individualized mentorship from NEC's esteemed faculty, and a dedicated advisor.

Dr. Saj-nicole A. Joni, a trustee and longtime supporter of scholarship and excellence in music education at NEC, established the **Saj-nicole A. Joni Founding Endowment for the Institute for Concert Artists**.

Through a generous planned gift, Dr. Joni has also included NEC in her estate plans to supplement the endowment and ensure the ICA's success well into the future.

Other notable support came from the **Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation** to endow the **Nancy and Richard Lubin Institute for Concert Artists Scholarship Fund**, which supports ICA students through studio lessons and coaching, a living stipend, and professional development opportunities. These extraordinary gifts will enable artists to emerge comprehensively equipped to navigate the demands of a professional career with confidence and vision.



Yutong Sun '19, '21 MM, '22 GD, '25 AD, Piano is a member of the Institute for Concert Artists and the recipient of the Saj-nicole A. Joni Founding Endowment for the Institute for Concert Artists Scholarship.



Josie Larsen '23 MM, '25 AD, Opera Studies is a member of the Institute for Concert Artists and the recipient of the Helen Haxton Stare Presidential Scholarship in Voice.

Your support powers....

Access to Music Education

Our vision for music education extends outside the boundaries of our campus. Your generosity has opened doors, enabling us to amplify NEC's impact in the Boston community and beyond in service to our commitment to music for all.



Teaching Artistry and Music Education

The Teaching Artistry and Music Education concentration offers a suite of courses, fellowships, workshops, and capstone projects that prepare students for teaching opportunities across age ranges, backgrounds, and musical genres. A generous gift from **Margarita Rudyak** has been instrumental in the ongoing development and growth of Teaching Artistry at NEC. Margarita, a current member of NEC's President's Council, served for many years as a mentor to NEC students and was a critical supporter in the creation of the Student Life and Performance Center and the Rudyak Reading Room in the Blumenthal Family Library.



Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar

For more than a decade, NEC Prep's **Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar (CHIPS)** has provided exceptional young string and piano students an in-depth, one-of-a-kind chamber music immersion experience. In June, the program's founding donors made a remarkable pledge to **fully fund CHIPS**, allowing advanced musicians ages 13 to 18 to participate **tuition-free in perpetuity**. Their generosity will increase faculty support, expand learning opportunities, and establish summer chamber music programming, making NEC the preeminent provider of year-round programming for young chamber musicians.



The Early Childhood Music Education Pilot

Made possible through an anonymous gift, the **Early Childhood Music Education Pilot** offered its first full academic year of programming in 2023–2024, in partnership with ABCD Head Start, Ellis Early Learning, and the City of Boston. The program reached approximately 560 infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and pre-K students in 43 classrooms across five early childhood centers in Dorchester, Mattapan, South End, and Jamaica Plain. Our three founding teaching artists collectively taught more than 1,400 hours over 31 weeks, providing high-quality music-making experiences that included singing, creative movement, instrument play, and age-appropriate explorations of foundational music concepts.

Your support powers....

Student and Alumni Achievement

Empowered by your generosity and a world-class education, NEC students and alumni are raising the bar on excellence. Below is just a selection of their many noteworthy achievements and accolades from the 2023–2024 academic year.



Violinist Joshua Brown '22, '24 MM, '26 AD won first prize at the China International Music Competition.

NEC Prep student Saehyun Kim won first prize at the Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists.



International sensation Yunchan Lim '24, '26 AD made triumphant debuts with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and at Carnegie Hall.



Leah Coloff '90, Alex Brown '09, Ilmar Gavilán '12 GD, Melissa White '12 MM, and Teddy Abrams '01 Prep took home 2024 Grammy Awards.



Violinist Jaewon Wee '23 GD won first prize at the Mirecourt International Violin Competition.

Clayton Stephenson '23 Harvard/NEC, '25 GD won the grand prize at the inaugural Nina Simone Piano Competition.



Vocalist Josaphat Contreras '22 MM won a Fulbright scholarship to study mariachi in Mexico City.

Stay up to date with the latest NEC student and alumni news

necmusic.edu/about/news

Your support powers....

Captivated Audiences

The 2023–2024 academic year included many memorable performances on NEC's stages. We invite you to enjoy a curated YouTube playlist of highlights by scanning the QR code provided here. A track list is included below.



Track List:

- 1 Amanda Harberg:** Concerto for Piccolo and Orchestra | NEC Chamber Orchestra
- 2 Puccini:** La bohème, Act II | NEC Opera + Philharmonia
- 3 Ives:** Varied Air and Variations (1920–1922) | Ariel Mo '20, '22 MM, '24 GD, piano
- 4 W.A. Mozart:** Divertimento in D Major, K.251 | NEC Chamber Orchestra
- 5 Studio Sessions:** Pretty Maid Milking Her Cow | Ceol Ensemble
- 6 Studio Sessions:** Puccini, Frank Bridge, and W.A. Mozart | Josie Larsen '23 MM, '25 AD, soprano, Hyungjin Son '24 MM, baritone, and Sujin Choi '23 GD, '24 GC, piano
- 7 W.A. Mozart:** "Great" Mass in C Minor, K. 427 | NEC Philharmonia + NEC Symphonic Choir
- 8 Jelly Roll Morton:** King Porter Stomp | Contemporary Musical Arts Ensemble
- 9 George Russell:** Stratusphunk | NEC Jazz Orchestra
- 10 Rachmaninoff:** Piano Concerto No.2 | Seongwoo Moon '25 MM, piano + NEC Symphony
- 11 Janáček:** Pohádka (Fairytale), JW 7/5 | Leland Ko '24 AD, cello and Adria Ye '24 GD, piano
- 12 Gounod:** Petite Symphonie | NEC Symphonic Winds + William Drury
- 13 Ravel:** Ma mère l'Oye | NEC Philharmonia + David Loebel



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